

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

April 26, 2005

The Federal Department of Defense (DoD) is currently reviewing options to close up to 100 of the 425 military bases located in the United States during the upcoming 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process. The DoD's list of bases that will be recommended for closure is scheduled to be released on May 16, 2005. The newly appointed Federal BRAC Commission will have until September 8, 2005 to review and potentially challenge the Pentagon's list before forwarding it to the White House. The President can accept the list and forward it to Congress where lawmakers will have 45 legislative days to approve or reject the list in its entirety.

With 62 active military bases, 275,000 jobs, and payroll and contract value topping \$42 billion, California remains at great risk for negative economic impacts that such closures have dealt us in the past. It should be noted that California suffered "a dramatically disproportionate burden" when it lost 93,546 military and civilian jobs when 29 bases were closed in similar military downsizing in 1988, 1991, 1993 and 1995. This downsizing included the Long Beach Naval Shipyard, El Toro, and the March Air Force Base, which had a negative impact on our local regional economies. The 29 base closures represented 30% of the bases closed and accounted for over half the jobs that were lost during the previous military reorganization.

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It is vital that every idea that other states are exploring to keep their military installations open also be reviewed as part of California's defensive plan. Accordingly, two ideas have surfaced this past week from the State of Illinois that should be studied by California. First, Governor Blagojevich of Illinois signed Executive Order No. 2005-4 on April 6, 2005 directly all State land-use planning agencies to coordinate all planning decisions with Illinois military installations. Executive Order No. 2005-4 is to improve the installations' military value by helping make them as "flexible, prepared and well-equipped to meet the nation's needs" as possible. The objective is to ensure that Illinois can provide key assistance in preserving available land for military readiness, and that they remain invaluable and off the nation's upcoming BRAC list.

Second, the Illinois congressional delegation, led by House Speaker Dennis Hastert, wrote Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld calling to his attention the Guard law. Title 10 of U.S. code states that Army or Air National Guard units may not be "relocated or withdrawn under this chapter without the consent of the governor of the state." This law would also impact California and should be investigated by Governor Schwarzenegger and his administration for possible defense in the event the DoD list proposes any closure of Guard facilities in California.

I, THEREFORE MOVE, that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Administrative Officer to obtain all background information relative to Governor Blagojevich's Executive Order No. 2005-4 and the Illinois congressional delegation action pertaining to Title 10 and prepare correspondence recommending that Governor Schwarzenegger and his administration take similar decisive action to save our bases in California.

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